

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USSS-00 SCI-06 H-03 EB-11 CIAE-00

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 4435

USIA FOR IEE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL CEAUSESCU INTERVIEWS REGARDING US VISIT

REF: BUCHAREST 4429

1. SEYMOOUR TOPPING (NYTIMES) HELD AS YET UNPUBLISHED 90-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH CEAUSESCU DECEMBER 1 IN WHICH CEAUSESCU STRESSED ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF US TRIP, SPECIFICALLY ROMANIA'S DESIRE FOR MORE JOINT VENTURES WITH US FIRMS. HE RAISED IMPORTANCE OF MFN STATUS FOR ROMANIA, IN ABSENCE OF WHICH HE SAID TRULY EQUAL US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS CANNOT BE ATTAINED. IN POLITICAL SPHERE, CEAUSESCU INDICATED DESIRE TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST, CSCE AND MBFR WITH US OFFICIALS. TOPPING WAS IMPRESSED BY GREAT CAUTION CEAUSESCU USED IN WORDING RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF ROMANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD USSR AND CHINA. IN OFF-THE-RECORD REMARK, CEAUSESCU VOICED GREAT PERSONAL ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT NIXON AND CALLED WATERGATE AFFAIR "VERY UNFORTUNATE" (CEAUSESCU MADE SAME REMARK TO AP'S LUDINGTON EARLIER). CEAUSESCU ALSO WENT

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OFF RECORD ON QUESTIONS ABOUT MFN'S TIE-IN WITH EMIGRATION OF

SOVIET JEWS, DENYING THAT SITUATION IN ROMANIA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOVIET PROBLEM.

2. INTERVIEW (AS IN LUDINGTON'S CASE) HELD IN COMPANY PARTY EXCO CANDIDATE MEMBER CORNEL BURTICA, PLUS OTHER PRESIDENTIAL AIDES. ATTENTIVE TREATMENT ACCORDED TOPPING BY GOR IN BUCHAREST INDICATED TO HIM CEAUSESCU INTENDS USE INTERVIEW FOR OWN PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES. TOPPING FILED STORY BY TELEX FROM BUCHAREST MORNING OF DECEMBER 2 BUT HAD NO IDEA WHEN IT WOULD BE CARRIED IN TIMES.

3. IN INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH JOURNALISTS PUBLISHED SCINTEIA DECEMBER 2 CEAUSESCU KEPT TO HOPEFUL GENERALITIES ABOUT US VISIT AND NOTED HE HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT GREAT BRITAIN IN "NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE." ON ENERGY CRISIS, CEAUSESCU TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT RECENT GOR FUEL AND ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES WERE UNDERTAKEN TO ASSURE BETTER USE OF DOMESTIC RESERVES. BRAMANTE

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